

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

September 1, 2011

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Donald Kasprzak, Councilors Tim Carpenter (W1), Mark Tiffer (W2), George Rabideau (W3), Jim Calnon (W4), Chris Case (W5), Chris Jackson (W6)

Absent: None

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on August 25, 2011 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:

RESOLVED: That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending August 31, 2011 in the amount of \$ 272,101.86 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of August 25 – August 31 , 2011
- Report from the Building Inspector's Office from August 24 – August 29, 2011

RESOLVED: That the reports as read are hereby ordered, received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

4. CORRESPONDENCE & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS:

5. **AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

RESOLVED: That the bills Audited by the Common Council in the amount of \$ 210,197.48 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk (where required) are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Case; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

6. **PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL:**

James Johnson 30 Steltzer Rd said in 1952 my father bought the property from St. John's Church the house was finished in October 1952 my mother has lived there ever since. I returned to Plattsburgh 11 years ago to live with her and help her out. I want to state what I sent in a letter to **Corporate Counsel John Clute** on Tuesday by email, by hand and by certified mail. The city is trespassing on our property illegally. The letter contains the details of this matter that a year ago last summer, spring in fact received a couple of letters from Mr. Kasprzak and an appraiser in Saratoga Springs that the city was interested in taking a portion of our land and would behave in a legal and forthright manner and you know come and decide with us how much they would take and pay us. I had two visits from persons related to this matter and then the city apparently decided they weren't going to do anything and now they're just trespassing on our land. So I think that amounts to criminal trespass I'm not exactly sure. But I am hoping for a response from attorney Clute before too long.

Mayor Kasprzak said you'll receive one, James, he sent us a copy of it for review today so it will be in the mail hopefully tomorrow.

James Johnson 30 Steltzer Rd said thanks. Please sir do not again ever address me by my first name. Mr. Johnson to you.

Mayor Kasprzak said James don't play games with me.

James Johnson 30 Steltzer Rd said Mr. Johnson to you. Mr. Johnson to you sir, you have no business addressing me in a familiar manner!

Mayor Kasprzak said James continue.

James Johnson 30 Steltzer Rd said that is about all I have to say. But I will mention that in June I received 2 emails from Mr. Kasprzak which are very, very unflattering to him. Good evening and you will hear from me about those too.

Mayor Kasprzak said thank you.

Judith Haley 16B Stetson Ave said I am here on behalf of my neighbors and my friends I have 17 signatures from my neighbors and friends to have that house torn down. It is a public hazard; the

debris is flying from the building. If something happens with the school children we're not responsible the city will be sued. The pigeons are terrible; I found a dead one in my back yard this morning. There are 13 to 14 pigeons daily on the roof and the demolition of the house be billed to the city.

Mayor Kasprzak said we will accept your petition and Mr. Perry the Building Inspector is in the back of the room and I am very confident he will be looking at that hopefully tomorrow.

Judith Haley 16B Stetson Ave said I have come down here several times and nobody's called me back on this. They take down my name but nobody's called me back that they've looked at the building.

Mayor Kasprzak said no disrespect this is the first time I've heard of this.

Judith Haley 16B Stetson Ave said oh no I've come down here several times and given the building inspector the girl.

Mayor Kasprzak said well I've never heard of your complaint personally, I have not. So I will follow up. We will be glad to take your petitions if you would like to give them to one of the Councilors.

Tammy Fritz 5246 North Catherine St said my major concern is there are a lot of small children that come by that house.

Mayor Kasprzak said this is the first I have heard of this so I will pass the information on.

Tammy Fritz 5246 No. Catherine St said I am confident you will do that. I'm just looking for the safety of the kids. Thank you I appreciate it.

7. OTHER ITEMS:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that Supplemental Agreement No. 2 to Contract #2007-16 "Multi-Use Path Construction, George Angell Drive to Saranac Street Bridge" be authorized and the Mayor to sign for a cost of \$9,380.

By Councilor Tiffer; Seconded by Councilor Rabideau

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

B. MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE PERMANENT APPOINTMENT OF CARLETON MORSE JR TO THE POSITION OF MICRO-COMPUTER COORDINATOR EFFECTIVE THURSDAY,

SEPTEMBER 15, 2011 PENDING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A 26 WEEK PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

C. MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT OF CASSONDRA KOUROFSKY TO THE POSITION OF MICRO-COMPUTER COORDINATOR EFFECTIVE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2011.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

D. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration Committee to close the following streets: City Hall Place, Trinity Square and Lower Court Street (Friday September 8th 5:30p – 9:30p, Saturday September 10th 9am – 5:30p, Sunday September 11th 9am – 5pm) and for the parade (Saturday September 10th) route: Cumberland Ave. – City Hall Place – Bridge Street – Durkee Street - Ends at Durkee @ Broad).

By Councilor Tiffer; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

E. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the residents of Grace Avenue to block Grace Avenue at the Cornelia and Ash Street entrances on Saturday, September 17, 2011 between the hours of 11 am and 6 pm to hold a block party on the south end of Grace Avenue (the residents of the entire street are also welcomed to participate).

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Calnon, Case, Jackson voted in the affirmative. Councilor Rabideau voted in the negative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

F. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Chamberlain to adjust the 2011 General Fund Budget by an increase of \$6,277.17 equally in

estimated revenues and appropriations in order to provide funding for the unbudgeted 2011 City Clerk Fees for Services for legal defense.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Calnon

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

G. Motion to waive rule 4 for initial consideration “Request from the Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration committee to use the US Oval for the Cannonball Race on Saturday, September 10th from 8 am – 10 am.

By Councilor Tiffer; Seconded by Councilor Calnon

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration committee to use the US Oval for the Cannonball Race on Saturday, September 10th from 8 am – 10 am.

By Councilor Tiffer; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

8. TRAVEL REQUEST:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Building Inspector Richard Perry and Municipal Code Inspector Claude Bouchard to attend the “New York State Building Code Officials Conference” in Albany, NY from October 17 - 19, 2011 at a cost not to exceed \$948.

By Councilor Case; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Bill Treacy Manager MLD to attend the “IEEP’s Annual Meeting” in Syracuse, NY from September 29-30, 2011 at a cost not to exceed \$254.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

C. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves one Police Officer and two civilian employees to attend the “2011 Telestaff Users Conference” in Garden Grove, CA from September 16 - 23, 2011 at a cost not to exceed \$9,598 and will be paid out of the Asset Forfeiture fund (travel expense).

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Case

Discussion:

Councilor Tiffer said I do payroll at UPS when my manager’s on vacation so I am familiar with web based payroll systems and the way that the chief explained this the software is going to help really make it more efficient to do payroll, to do staffing and I think it’s a great expenditure.

Councilor Jackson said this is something, Mark; we’ve been working on since before you got here. The city has no centralized payroll system it’s all done on spreadsheets. Everybody’s got their own way of doing it and its double entered down at the Chamberlain’s office and just obtaining the software package and we’re using the Police as the guinea pig department more or less but we’d like to see this extend throughout the entire city so that the payroll process can become uniform. So this is hopefully one of those train the trainer things where we get some good out of this.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:

1. Request from the Red Hummingbird Foundation to hold their annual Earthdance Celebration on Saturday, September 24, 2011 from 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm at the Lions club bandshell. In the case of inclement weather it would be held at the outside covered area of the Farmer’s Market.
2. Request from the Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration committee to use the US Oval for the Cannonball Race on Saturday, September 10th from 8 am – 10 am. **(Move to agenda under “Other Items” Letter G)**

3. Request from the City Chamberlain to close eight capital projects dated between 2005 and 2009 as either completed or totally inactive for several years. The process of finalizing these projects will release much needed appropriated Water and Sewer Capital Reserve funds for currently active and new capital project spending.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

Councilor Rabideau said we had that storm on Sunday with the hurricane and our city departments always do well in cases of emergency but I've had a couple people come up to me and say. One of these people was listening to a scanner and had lived outside the city and moved in to the city and was quite impressed by the way these calls were handled. The emergencies that took place; in which trees were down and people were going out and he used the word somebody was out their spotting these problem areas then calling other people to that particular location with equipment which I later found out, Mike Brodi, was one of the people that was out there working that day spotting the problem areas. We had reports from the lighting department of all the different trees that they cut and the different power lines that they worked on and so forth. This person not being a resident who became a resident in the city told me he was impressed by the way these departments work together. We already know that but I think they should receive a comment that they did a great job as they always do and mention it here at the meeting. I thought somebody would have mentioned it.

Councilor Calnon said I want to agree with George very wholeheartedly at one point there were representatives of 5 different departments on my street and equipment it was pretty interesting. You're right these men and women worked from very early in the day till very early the next day and beyond. I share with you pride in our city employees accomplishments it's a marvelous example of good cooperation. You could here fire trucks are going to an emergency; they see a downed tree they communicate that back and the coordination was marvelous I just really think everyone did a great job.

Mayor Kasprzak said I concur with all of you. I was out with some of them and I was no where near getting wet or working hard like they were. I get different calls then many of you and usually I get the complaints and there were very few if any other then the power was out a couple of times and they understood the trees were down and it happened just like that and our folks got there. I can't speak highly enough of Chief Racicot's folks out there and Mike your folks and Rick was out there and we just did an outstanding job in the storm. Again, just like the flood was unprecedented for us and I'm just very proud as I told them all. Those were great comments I appreciate that.

Mayor Kasprzak said we have a 911 exhibit that Keith Herkalo's been working very closely with the Governor's office in the Community Room. Beth has also been involved and I just wanted to share that with all of you so you're aware of it, I know you are, but very sensitive and very important. We were one of the 33 locations to receive a few pieces from 911 the tragedy. There will be a short ceremony on 9/11/11 itself in the am, I believe. Right Keith?

City Clerk Keith Herkalo said 8:30 am.

Councilor Carpenter said here?

Mayor Kasprzak said yes. I just wanted to let you know that is open now and the public is more than welcome.

12. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:46 pm